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Ames Forestry Club

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Professor Spencer Ambrose Beach

The "Master of all Good Workmen" has called from our Forestry faculty a true friend and a great teacher. Ames Foresters learned of the death of Professor S. A. Beach, Vice-Dean of Agriculture, with heartfelt sorrow; little had we expected when he was with us at our annual spring camp-fire early last June that it was the last time we would be privileged to have his genial company on such occasions. The brief talk he gave that night was the last he ever addressed to Ames Foresters; yet when we now review in our memories the thoughts he expressed, there seems to have been in them something of the prophetic. Fellowship in service was his theme; the ever valued personal touches in all undertakings, which, he said, were the outstanding points in the characters of leading workers.

The death of Professor Beach was felt as a personal loss, because he had so completely identified himself with the development of Forestry at Iowa State College. When he came to Ames in 1905 but three or four courses were offered in Forestry, and these were of a very superficial nature. Although primarily a horticulturist, Professor Beach was in thorough sympathy with the need throughout the country for trained foresters, and convinced that Iowa State had a place in the training of these foresters, he brought every influence to bear for the broadening of the Forestry curriculum. We are hardly over-estimating his services when we say that the Forestry course as it is today at Iowa State is largely a result of his unceasing interest in the development of a strong department.

A natural outgrowth of his interest in the teaching of Forestry at Iowa State College was a great personal interest in the Forestry students. At least once every year he welcomed all Foresters to his large comfortable home for an evening of fellowship and pleasure; no one ever took a keener interest in our campfires, and in our problems concerning college work, he gave of his time generously and of advice sincerely.

Professor Beach as a scientist was characterized as conservative. Early in his scientific work he wrote quite prolifically, yet every one of his works show a very critical analysis of all facts and data before they were published for his chosen profession. Probably the greatest single contribution to horticultural literature is his two-volume work, the "Apples of New York." If he had written nothing more than this, his place as a great horticulturist would have been secure, for it

is the most complete monograph on the systematic pomology of the apple published in America. In the fourteen years of his connection with the New York Agricultural Experiment Station he published, in addition to the "Apples of New York," thirteen experiment station bulletins. The seventeen years of his service at Ames has witnessed the publication of but three bulletins, but during those years there was hardly a volume of the Iowa Horticultural Society that did not contain one or more valuable contributions to horticultural science.

It would be but folly to measure the services of Professor Beach by the volume of information he published. He was deeply interested in the problem of hardy fruits for the upper Mississippi valley, and he is said to have considered the opportunity for apple breeding here as the chief reason for resigning his position at the New York Experiment Station in 1905. He leaves to Iowa and the world, as a product of his labor and leadership an outstanding collection of apple breeding material containing nearly 30,000 cross-bred seedlings, and upwards of 3,000 trees of bearing age. As his next great job he had planned to bring this material together for publication.

The activities of Professor Beach among the various scientific societies speak nobly of his rare ability as a leader in his particular field. He was a member of the Royal Horticultural Society of London, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. During the entire period of his work at Ames he was a member of the Iowa Horticultural Society, and was president of that society from 1920 until the time of his death. He was a prime mover in organizing the American Society for Horticultural Science, and a charter member. At Iowa State College he was affiliated with the Alpha Zeta, Sigma XI, Gamma Sigma Delta and Phi Kappa Phi honorary fraternities; and was a chartered member of the local chapter of Acacia social fraternity.

As a man, no less than as a scientist, Professor Beach stood for all that was noble and good in life. His strong personality went out as an influence for good to all with whom he came in contact. His lofty ideals of loyalty to home, as well as to his chosen life work, have earned for him the sincere admiration and love of all who came to know him. Ames Foresters feel indeed, that in the passing of Professor Beach they have lost a true friend and a great teacher.

One of his co-workers once gave expression to an ideal which seems a fitting tribute to his own:

"As the crown and end of all true labor, and all skill, is to produce men; as the horticulturist in his disappointments

and failures, as well as in his successes, will, if he is wise and true, aim to perfect fruits more lasting and valuable than those of the apple or vine, and will set the choicest value on the blossoming of truth and justice, let us hope that the taste for and the culture of the sweet and humanizing influence of nature may join with all other agencies to fit us to send out to the world the fruits of integrity, self-respect, and wise judgement."

Bernhard Eduard Fernow

Bernhard E. Fernow, dean of the State College of Forestry at Cornell throughout its brief history, died at his home in Toronto on February 6.

He was born at Inowraclaw, Posen, Prussia, on January 7, 1851. Educated at the Bromberg Gymnasium, the Mueden Forest Academy, and the University of Koenigsberg, he came to America in 1876, and after ten years in metallurgical business, in 1886 became chief of the division of forestry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, holding this position until he came to Ithaca.

Dr. Fernow later became professor of forestry in Pennsylvania State College. In 1907 he went to the University of Toronto as dean of the faculty of forestry, retiring in 1919 as Professor Emeritus. He became easily the most distinguished forester in North America.

He edited in succession *The Forester*, *The Forestry Quarterly*, and *The Journal of Forestry*. He wrote "The White Pine" (1899), "The Economics of Forestry" (1902), "The History of Forestry" (1907), "The Care of Trees" (1911), and many reports and monographs. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, vice-president of the American Forestry Association, and a member of the Canadian Conservation Commission.

In 1879 he married Olivia Reynolds, of Brooklyn. She survives him with four sons: Rossiter Raymond Fernow '02, of Cynwyd, Pa., Bernhard Eduard Fernow, Jr., '04, of Ithaca, Fritz Fernow '09, of Buffalo, and Karl Hermann Fernow '16, of Ithaca. A daughter, Gordon Fernow '02, died in Ithaca on January 3, 1902.

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